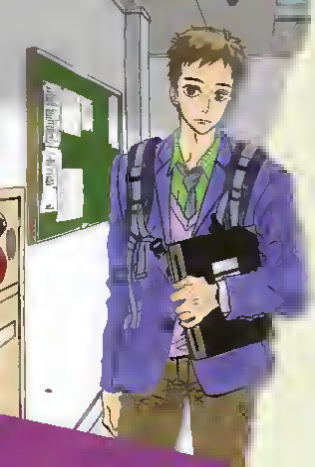

Onii-Sensei no Binetsu

by Kawachi Haruka

Vol. 1, Ch. 2

Translator. Hats

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Cleaner. Kelpie

Typesetter sluppyslippy

Quality Control Hats

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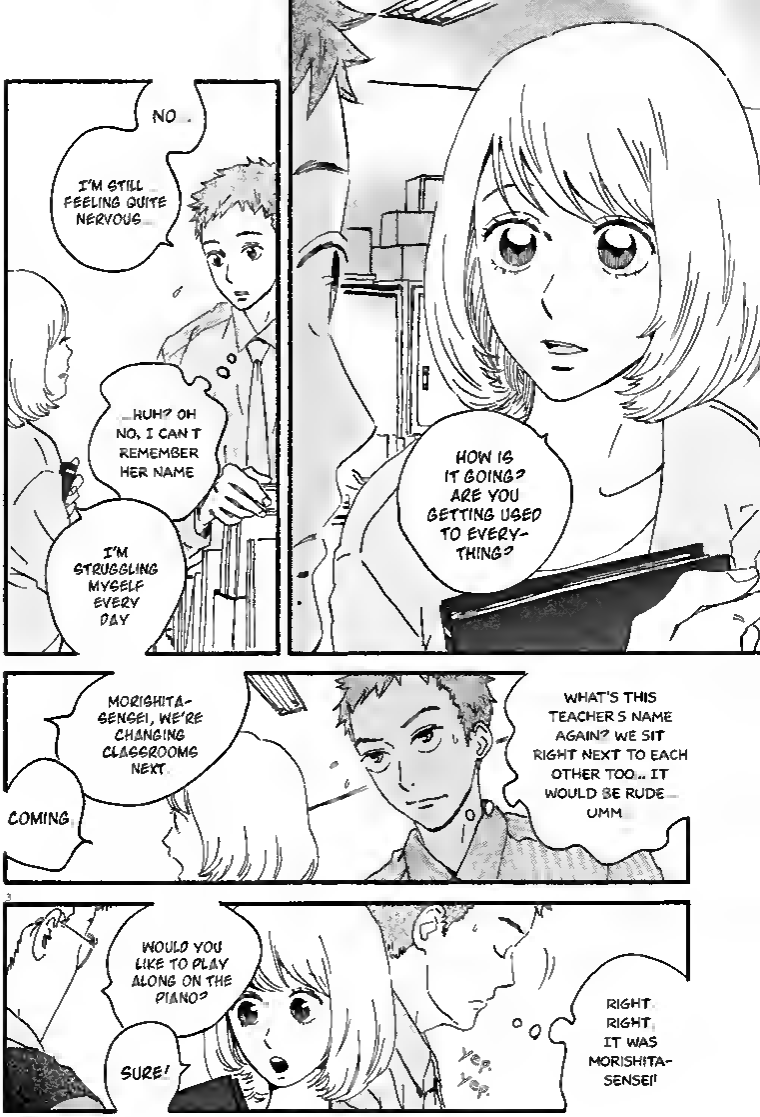
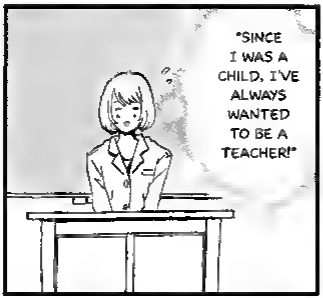
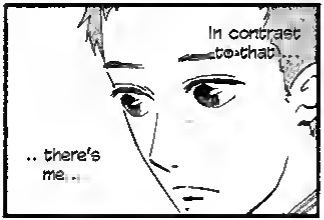
It's been a week since I started my new job at my alma mater
I should be familiar with these classrooms and hallways...
Staff Room
...but it all feels strangely distant, and ..
Spacing out.
OMI-SENSEI.


NO.
I'M STILL FEELING QUITE NERVOUS...
...HUH? OH NO, I CAN'T REMEMBER HER NAME
I'M STRUGGLING MYSELF EVERY DAY
HOW IS IT GOING? ARE YOU GETTING USED TO EVERY-THING?
MORISHITA-SENSEI, WE'RE CHANGING CLASSROOMS NEXT.
COMING.
WHAT'S THIS TEACHER'S NAME AGAIN? WE SIT RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER TOO... IT WOULD BE RUDE... UMM...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY ALONG ON THE PIANO?
SURE!
YEP, YEP.
RIGHT, RIGHT. IT WAS MORISHITA-SENSEI!


"SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TEACHER!"


In contrast to that...
.. there's me...

DINNNG DANNNG
Is she the type people like to say has potential?

SUGI-MOTO-KUN.

RATTLE
That was embar-rassing...

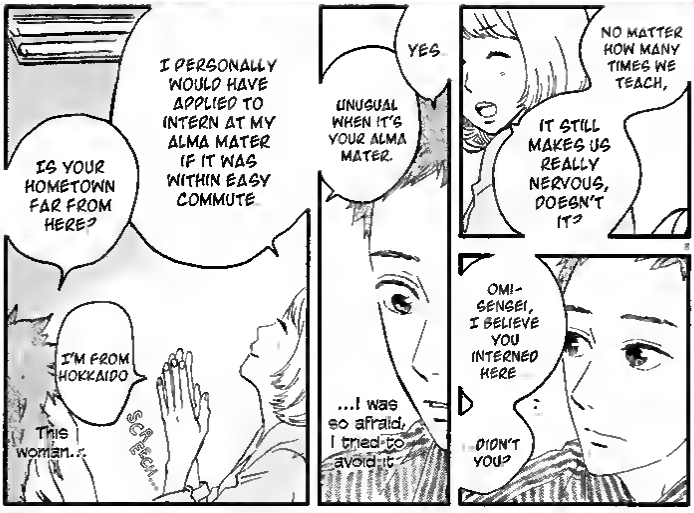
...receiving a lecture along with a student....
SHAKE
ST-
STOP CRYING.

I'm sorry, Sugimoto-kun.
...
...It's probably unbearable seeing someone like me stare at you, isn't it?
...
You just happen to be the nephew of my (possible) first love, Su-chan, and...
...My eyes...
...can't stop following you.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE PERSON I KNOW...
But...

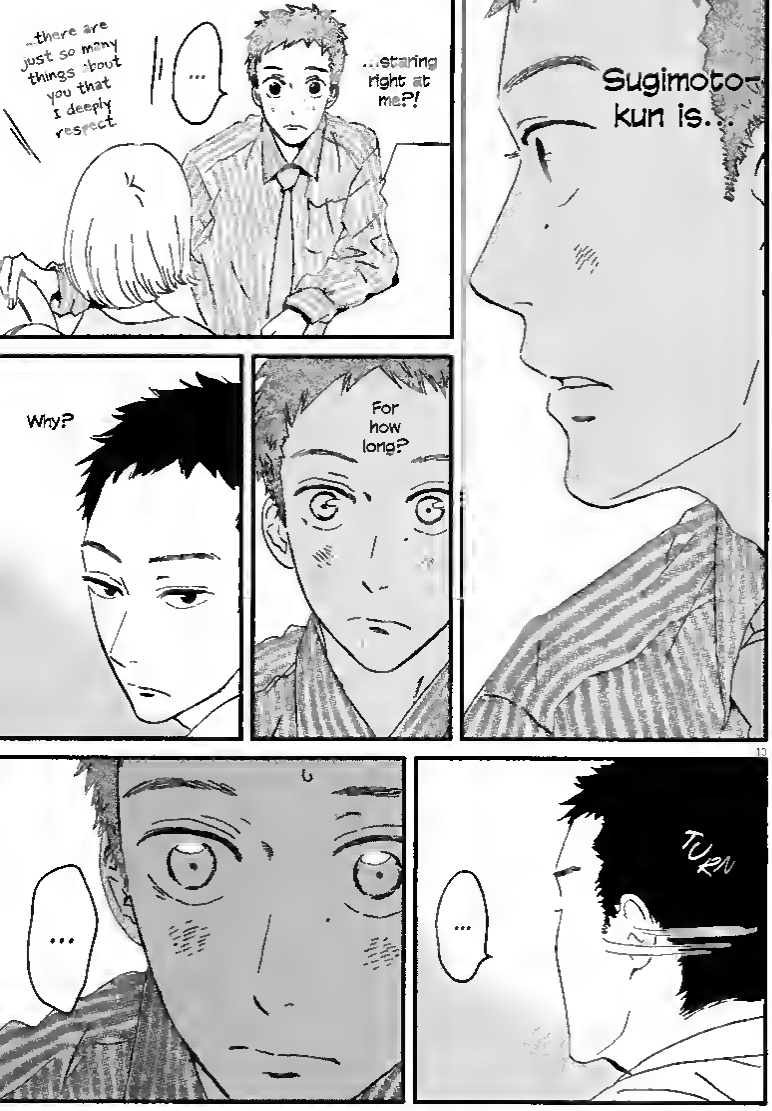
MEOW!
But he lived by his own rules.
BASH
EWW.
THIS SHITHEAD CAT PISSED ME OFF
IT KILLED OUR JAVA SPARROW!
BESIDES IT'S JUST A SICK STRAY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT GOES TO THE POUND
HARSH!
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST?
THAT'S RIGHT
Su-chan was reticent and...
...taller than the rest of the boys.

MRAAWR
whoosh
CLANG
WHOA!
KA-THUNK
SU-CHAN?
...
HUH?
BUT IT'S AN EMPTY CAN? LET ME IN ON IT TOO
YOU COULD'VE HIT ME!!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
RSTL
RSTL
Clumsy gentleness
RSTL
CREED SPOILED OUR FUN..
THIS GUY'S NUTS.
MEOW!
1,000 YEN IF IT DIES, WITH THE TAIL INTACT
300 YEN IF ITS EARS GET TORN
WANNA WAGER WITH ME?
...
MEOW!

AHH! SO MUCH PRESSURE!
...
shined so brightly
The Sugimoto I know...
Even when he keeps me in suspense...
IS IT ALL-RIGHT?
FOR A STRAY LIKE THIS? YOU BET.
ASH
MEW


IS YOUR HOMETOWN FAR FROM HERE?
I PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE APPLIED TO INTERN AT MY ALMA MATER IF IT WAS WITHIN EASY COMMUTE
I'M FROM HOKKAIDO
This woman...
SCRATCH
YES
UNUSUAL WHEN IT'S YOUR ALMA MATER.
...I was so afraid, I tried to avoid it...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE TEACH,
IT STILL MAKES US REALLY NERVOUS, DOESN'T IT?
OMI-SENSEI, I BELIEVE YOU INTERNED HERE
DIDN'T YOU?

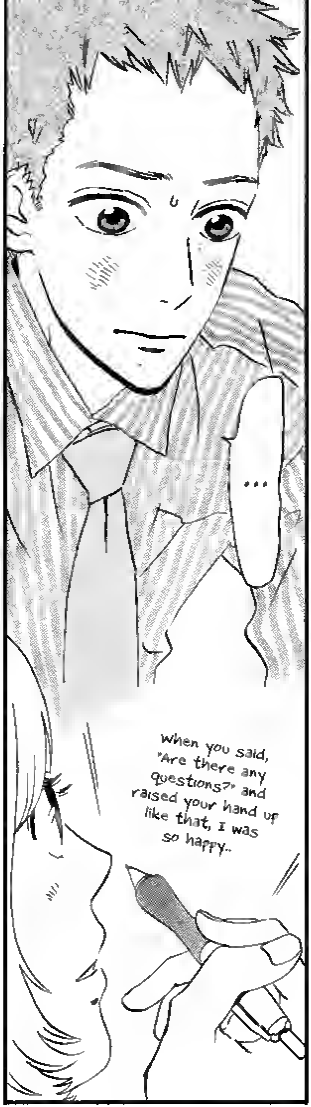
Something like that sounds like so much fun!
SOMEDAY I'D LIKE TO BE BOTH ALUMNA AND TEACHER
...seems to have chosen a place where she belongs.
JUST LIKE YOU
The reason why I wanted to be like you in the first place is because
Huh?

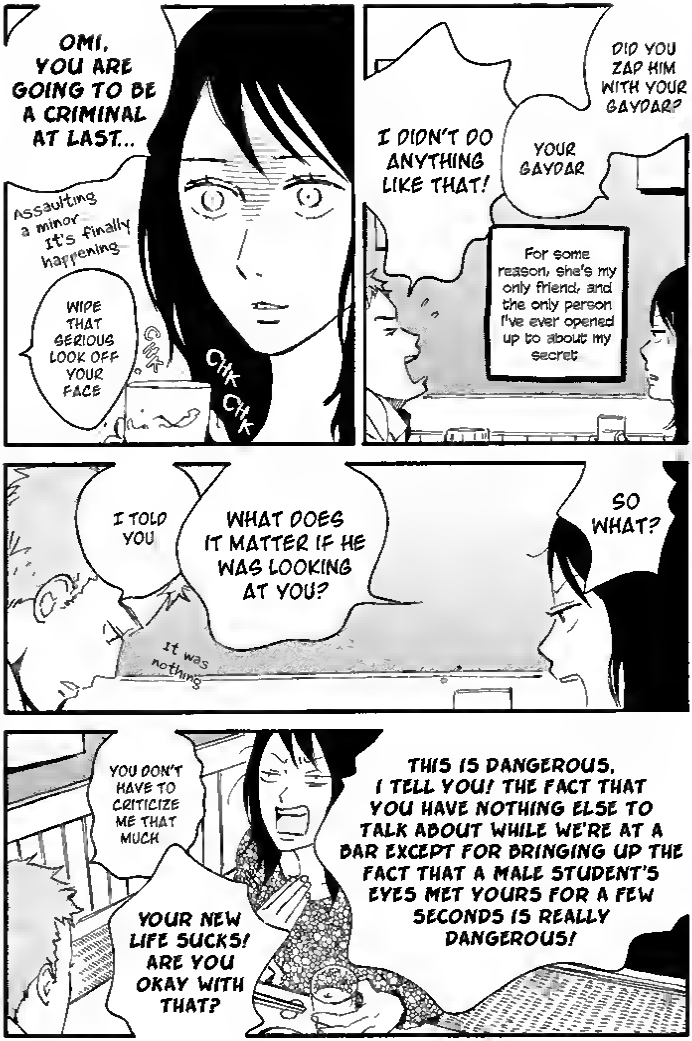

...there are just so many things about you that I deeply respect
...
...staring right at me?!
Sugimoto-kun is...
Why?
For how long?
...
TURN
...

YOU MADE EYE CONTACT
...WITH SU'S NEPHEW?
居酒屋
つつ

WHAT KIND OF SICK JOKE IS THAT?
STOP IT
This woman is Torikai, a former classmate of mine.

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE.
IT WAS SORT OF LIKE HE WANTED TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
THAT AIN'T HAPPENING.

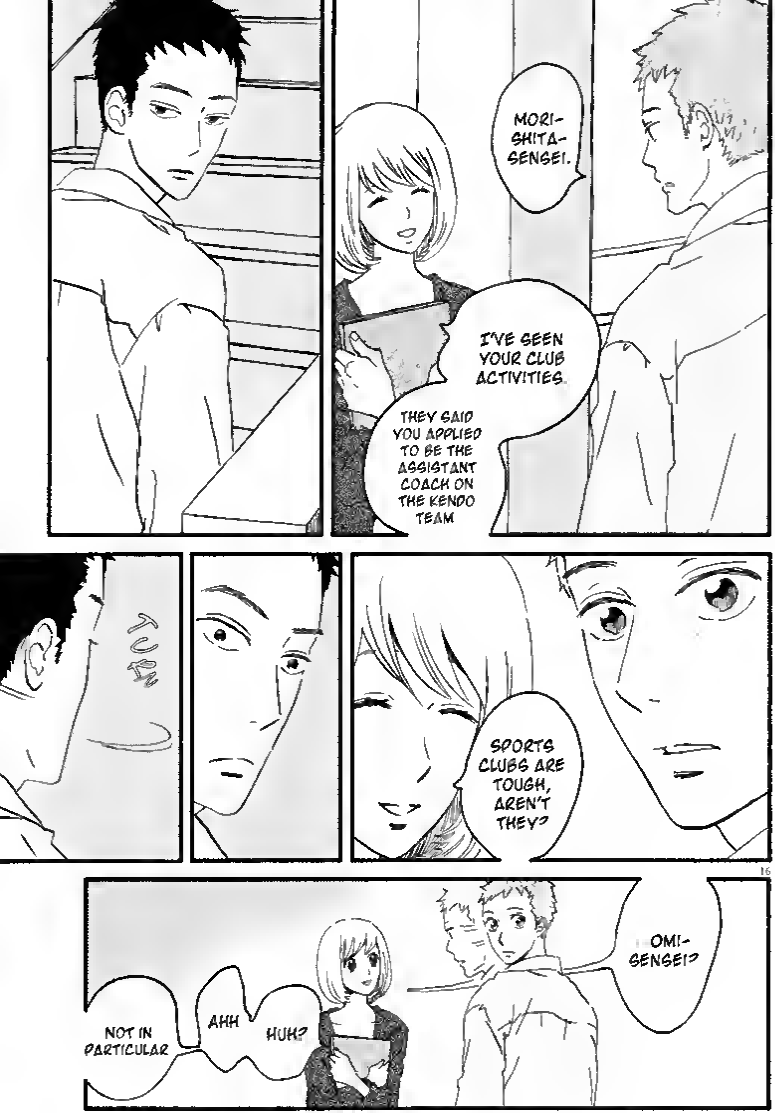

...
When you said, "Are there any questions?" and raised your hand up like that, I was so happy..

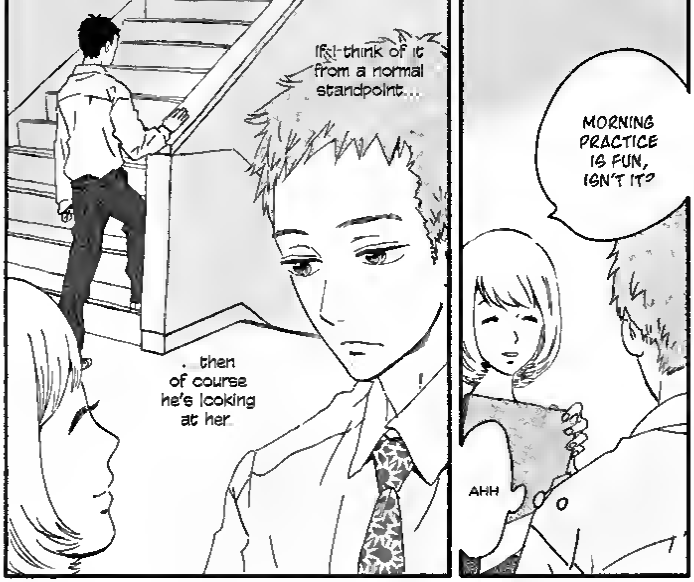

OMI, YOU ARE GOING TO BE A CRIMINAL AT LAST...
Assaulting a minor. It's finally happening
WIPE THAT SERIOUS LOOK OFF YOUR FACE
Chk Chk
Chk Chk
DID YOU ZAP HIM WITH YOUR GAYDAR?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
YOUR GAYDAR
For some reason, she's my only friend, and the only person I've ever opened up to about my secret
SO WHAT?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF HE WAS LOOKING AT YOU?
I TOLD YOU
It was nothing
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRITICIZE ME THAT MUCH
YOUR NEW LIFE SUCKS! ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
THIS IS DANGEROUS, I TELL YOU! THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO TALK ABOUT WHILE WE'RE AT A BAR EXCEPT FOR BRINGING UP THE FACT THAT A MALE STUDENT'S EYES MET YOURS FOR A FEW SECONDS IS REALLY DANGEROUS!

SO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ANYWAY?
...LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE SU-CHAN, THAT YOU'D MISTAKE ONE FOR THE OTHER...
BUT SUGIMOTO-KUN...
THAT'S DISGUSTING
COUGH
She knows me too well.
UGH! YOU'RE FEIGNING IGNORANCE NOW?!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO MAKE IT GO IN THAT DIRECTION...?
YOU WANT SEX, DON'T YOU?
NO, I DON'T!
N-NN-
That's why I thought I'd be satisfied with watching him from afar...
T-
TORIKAI-SAN, YOU'RE TOO LOUD!
WAIT, YOU'RE STILL A VIRGIN! KYA HA HA HA
He isn't Su-chan.

YOU, ON SEAT NUMBER SIX
PLEASE READ THE NEXT PAGE
...But our eyes met...
DINNNG
DAAANG
DOOOONG

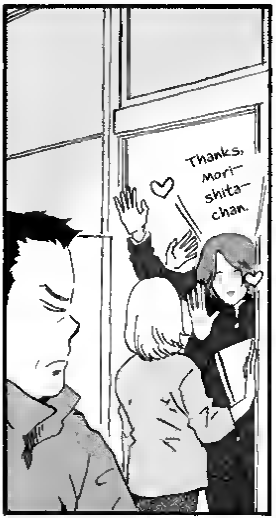
15
OMI-
SENSEI


MORI-SHITA-SENSEI.
I'VE SEEN YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES.
THEY SAID YOU APPLIED TO BE THE ASSISTANT COACH ON THE KENDO TEAM
TCH
SPORTS CLUBS ARE TOUGH, AREN'T THEY?
OM!-SENSEI?
HUH?
AHH
NOT IN PARTICULAR


If I think of it from a normal standpoint...
...then of course he's looking at her.
MORNING PRACTICE IS FUN, ISN'T IT?
AHH

Old enough to long for older women.
There are so many choices
It makes it so hard to choose!
The feeling...

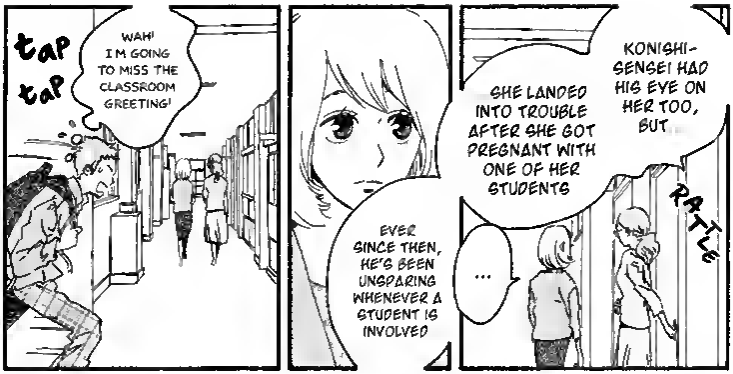
...of accidentally...
...tearing off a scab...
...

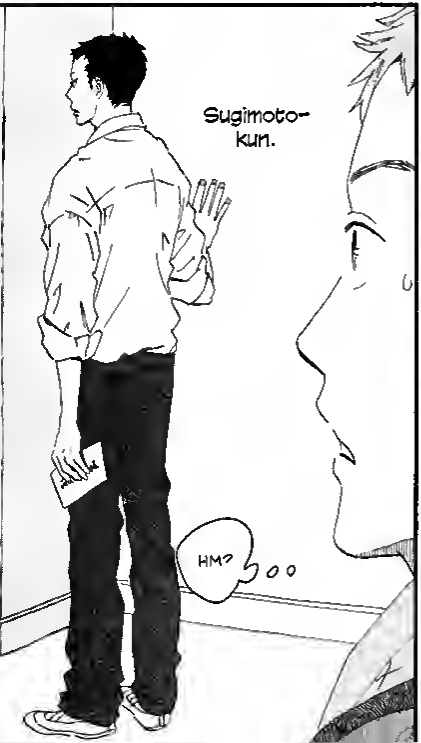

Thanks, Mori-shita-chan.

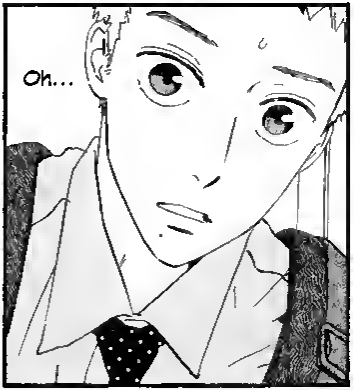
What... in the world...
...do I want to happen?

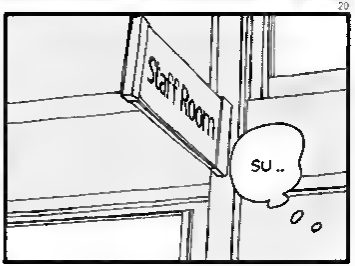
What do you...
...want to do anyway?

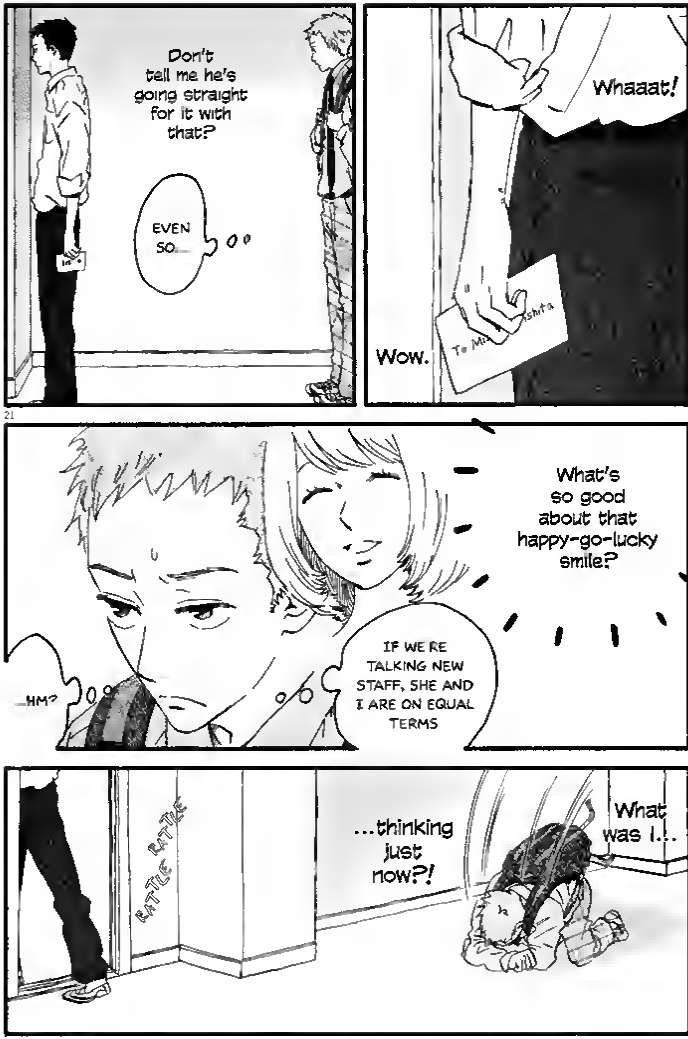
I WOULDN'T CALL THAT FRIENDLY
THEY'RE NOT TAKING YOU VERY SERIOUSLY
...
A FLOOD OF QUESTIONS IN THE MORNING? THEY MUST LOVE SCHOOL
KONISHI-SENSEI
THEY TOLD ME I WAS EASY TO TALK TO BECAUSE THEY MET ME WHILE I WAS TRAINING TO BE A TEACHER LAST YEAR
HMPH
...
KTUMP
I BELIEVE THAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO
WE HAD THIS NEW TEACHER WHO GOT A LITTLE TOO FRIENDLY WITH HER STUDENTS. SHE WAS ASKED TO QUIT
I HOPE YOU DON'T REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE
YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL


tap tap
WAH! I'M GOING TO MISS THE CLASSROOM GREETING!
EVER SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN UNGUARDING WHENEVER A STUDENT IS INVOLVED
SHE LANDED INTO TROUBLE AFTER SHE GOT PREGNANT WITH ONE OF HER STUDENTS
KONISHI-SENSEI HAD HIS EYE ON HER TOO, BUT
RATTLE
...

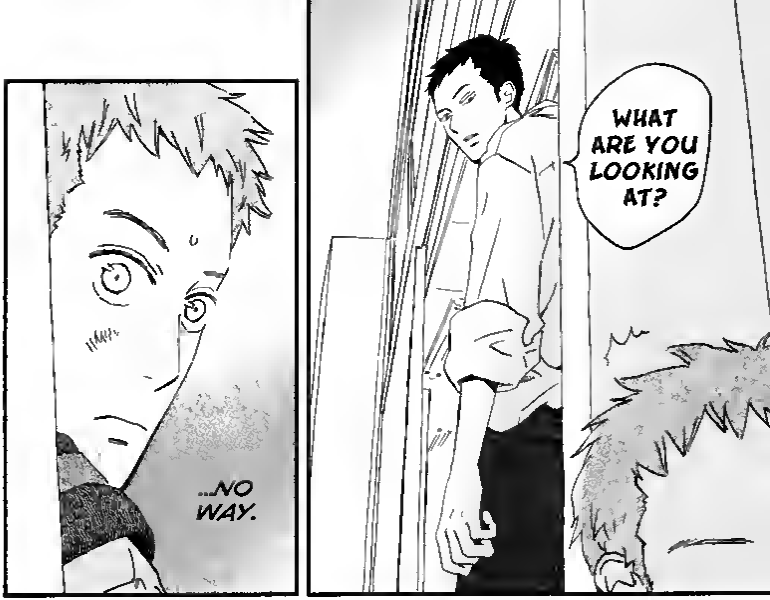

Sugimoto-kun.
HM?


Oh...


Staff Room
SU..


Don't tell me he's going straight for it with that?
EVEN SO...
Whaaat!
Wow.
To Mr. Ishita
What's so good about that happy-go-lucky smile?
IF WE'RE TALKING NEW STAFF, SHE AND I ARE ON EQUAL TERMS
...HM?
RATTLE RATTLE
...thinking just now?!
What was I...

RAT-TLE
Come to think of it,
ever since I became a teacher...
...
...I've been constantly hiding...
RAT-TLE


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
...NO WAY.

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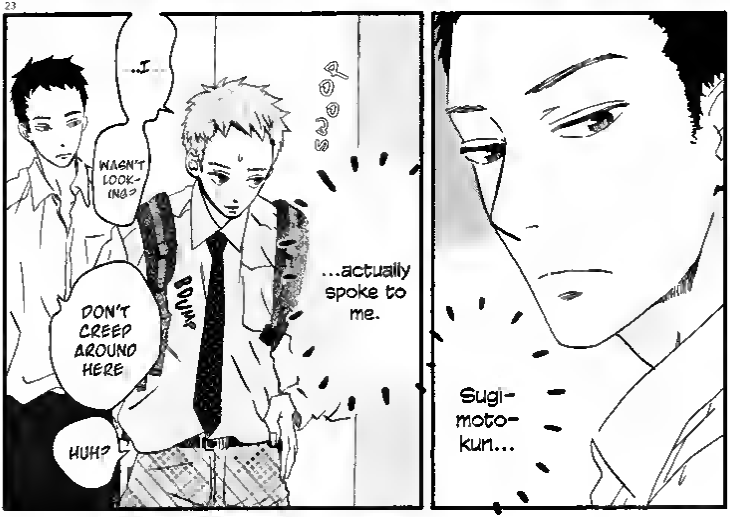
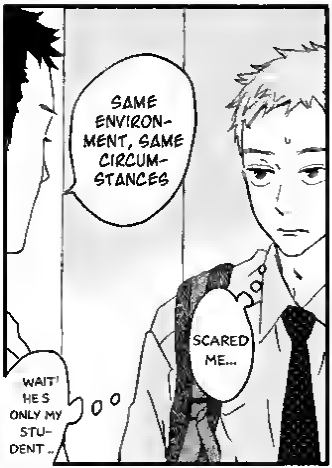
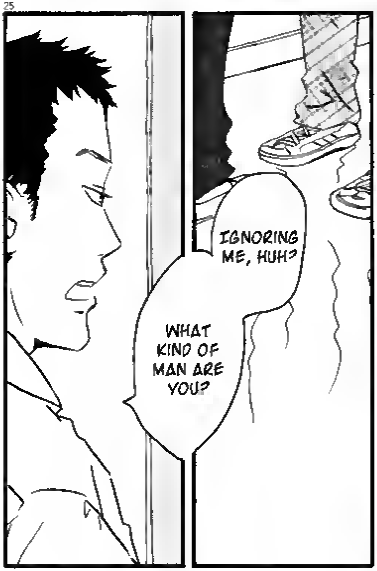

Sugi-moto-kun...
...actually spoke to me.
DON'T CREEP AROUND HERE
HUH?
...I WASN'T LOOK-ING?

GULP
...WHAT?
IT'S NO USE HIDING IT.
... Whaaaat?
YOU LIKE MORISHITA-SENSEI, DON'T YOU?

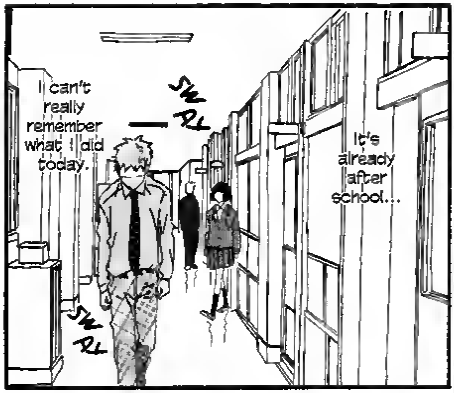
YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW.
BUT WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT A TEACHER AND A STUDENT?

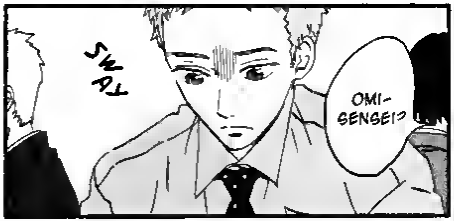

SAME ENVIRON-MENT, SAME CIRCUM-STANCES
SCARED ME...
WAIT! HE'S ONLY MY STU-DENT..

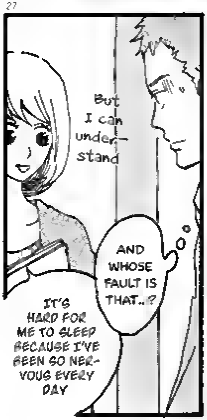

IGNORING ME, HUH?
WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?

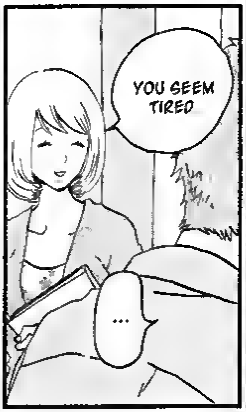
IN TWO YEARS, I'LL BE ABLE TO SURPASS YOU.
...

IF YOU LIKE HER, THEN COME STRAIGHT OUT AND SAY IT.


I can't really remember what I did today.
SWARL
It's already after school...
SWARL

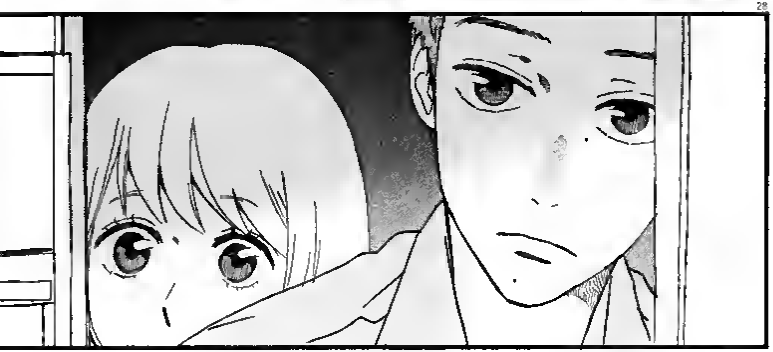

SWARL
OMI-SENSEI?


But I can under-stand
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT..?
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SLEEP BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SO NER-VOUS EVERY DAY


YOU SEEM TIRED
...

DINNNG
DOOOONG

What's wrong with her?
It's like there's nowhere you can find fault in her...
I must give it my best.
...
MORIGHITA-SENSEI, YOU'RE SO DEDICATED.
BUT IT'S MEANINGLESS IF I DON'T KEEP ON GOING.
...already read the letter...?
Has she...
WHRRR
KERCHA
...I hate it when I get so mean.
rattle
Everything that I don't have, she has.
SHE'S CUTE, AND DILI-GENT. TINY,



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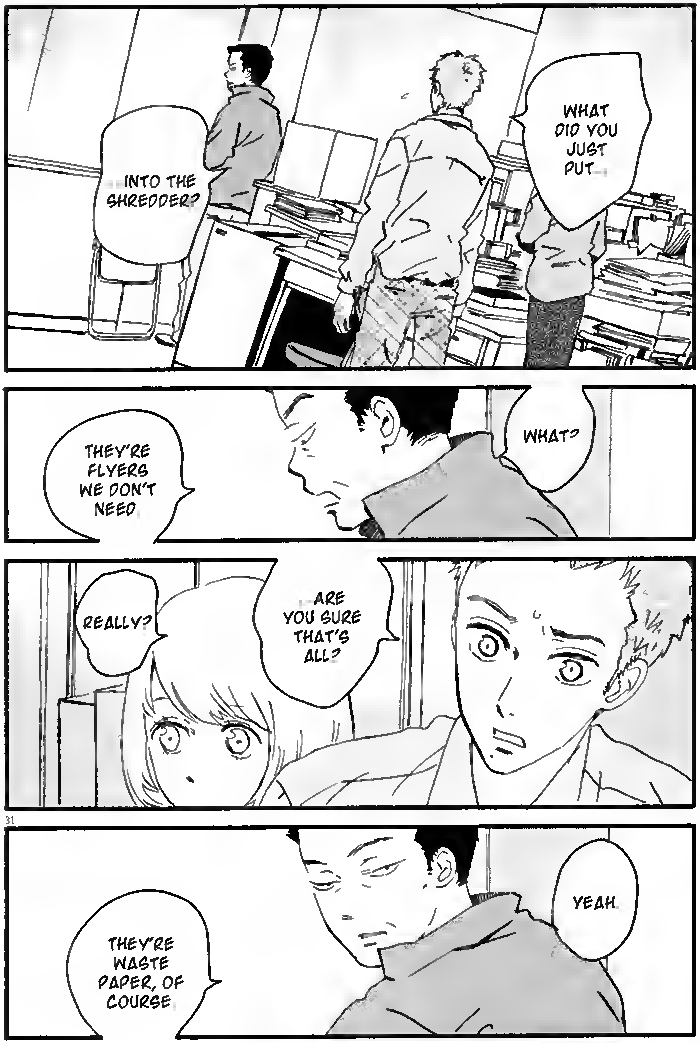
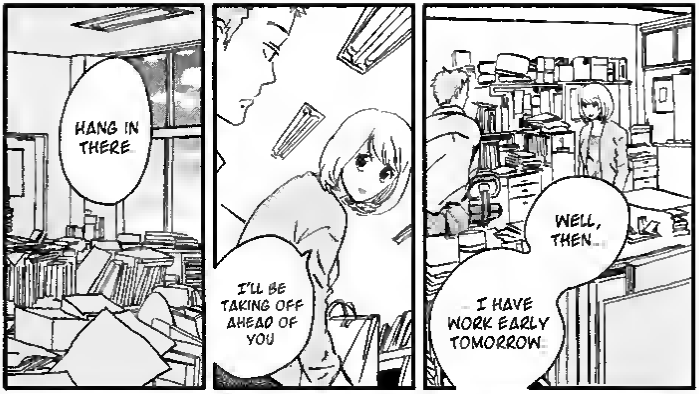
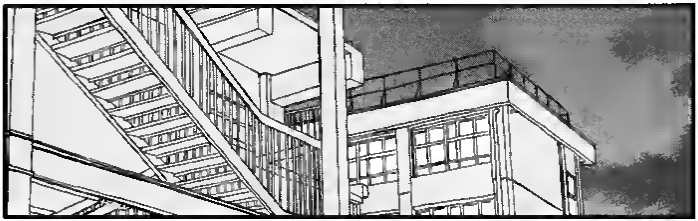
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
KE-CHAK
WHAT


WHAT DID YOU JUST PUT...
...INTO THE SHREDDER?
WHAT?
THEY'RE FLYERS WE DON'T NEED.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALL?
REALLY?
YEAH.
THEY'RE WASTE PAPER, OF COURSE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT FACE?
NO...
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
NO-THING
OMI-SENSEI?
KTUP


HANG IN THERE
I'LL BE TAKING OFF AHEAD OF YOU
WELL, THEN...
I HAVE WORK EARLY TOMORROW...



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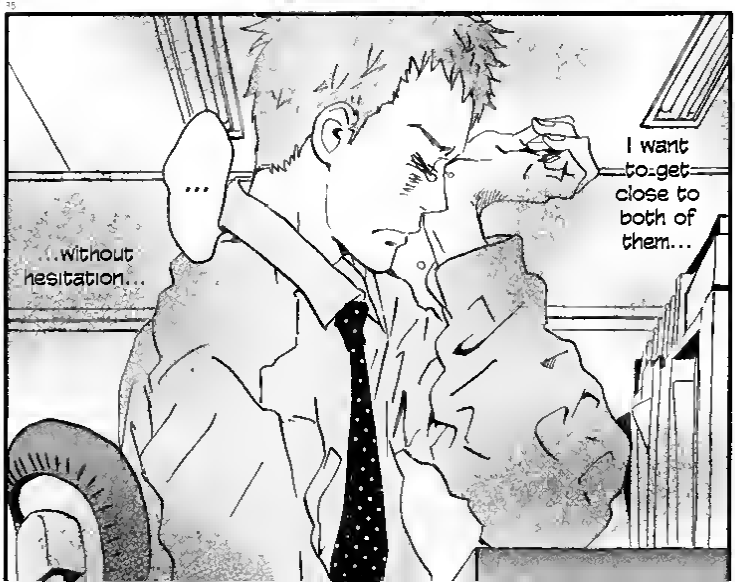
I'm...
Why couldn't I say anything?

I felt relieved and at ease...
...that Morishita-sensei didn't get to read Sugimoto-kun's letter.
A part of me had hoped...
...for the letter not to reach her.
...a coward.

"WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?"
Sugimoto-kun looks so much like Su-chan...
"WHAT IS IT "
"—THAT YOU WANT TO DO?"
I...
...want to get close to him.

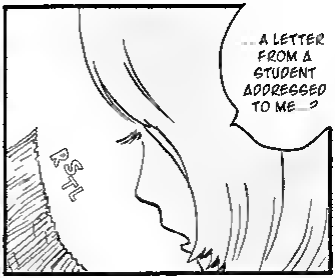

I want to get close to both of them...
...
...without hesitation...

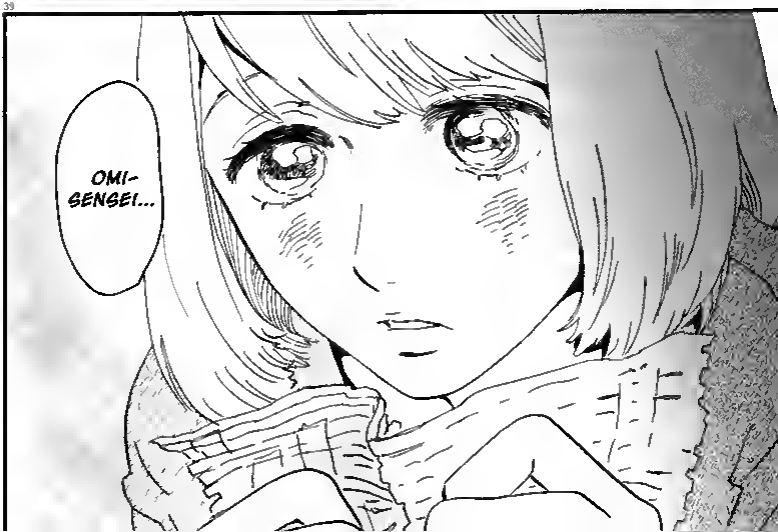
chirrup...
NO, THEY'RE FIRST!
DID I COME A LITTLE TOO EARLY?
THERE'S STILL NO ONE...
FLAP
RATTLE
Staff Room
HEH HEH HEH, BUT I'LL BE THE FIRST HERE
HUH?

OMI-
SENSEI!?

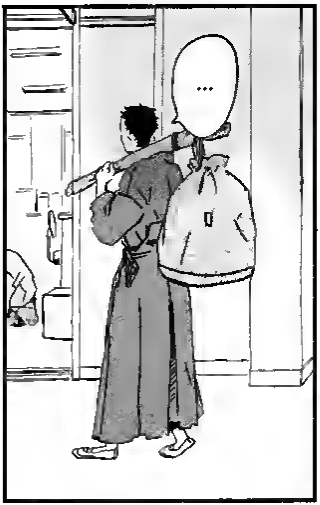
HE SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT...
DOING THIS FOR ME...

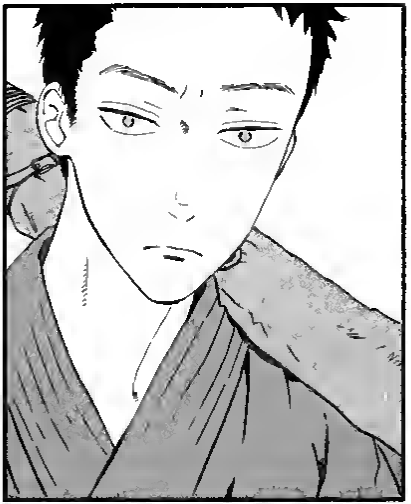
...

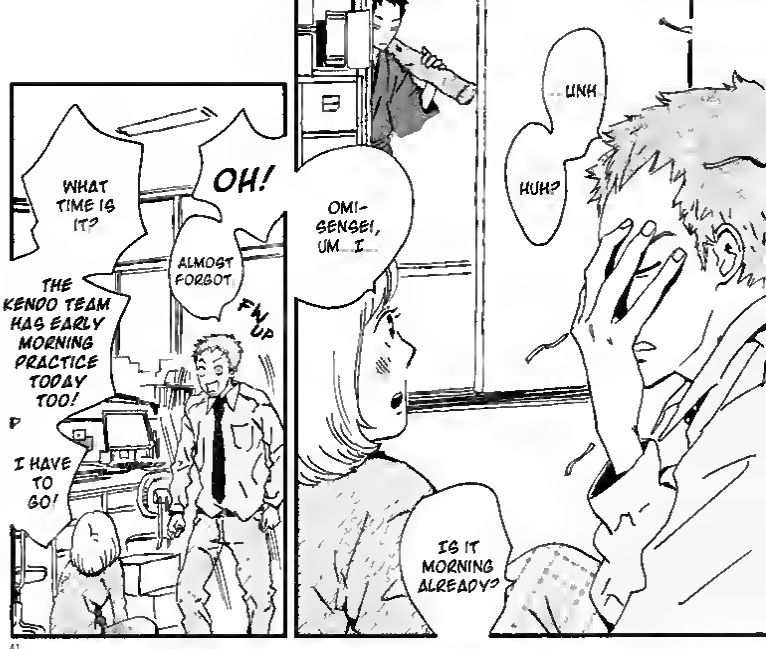

...A LETTER FROM A STUDENT ADDRESSED TO ME...?
PSTL


OMI-SENSEI...

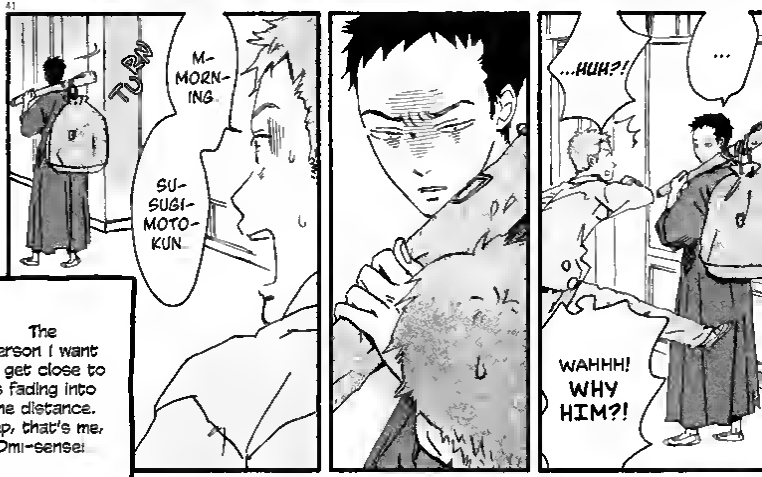
YOU'LL CATCH COLD
WHISH
MMN


...





41



The person I want to get close to is fading into the distance. Yep, that's me, Omi-sensei.